DOCKET NUMBER: DE920000075US1

REMARKS

These remarks follow the order of the paragraphs of the office action. Relevant portions of the office action are shown indented and italicized.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities: applicant applies short-hand drafting to make claims appear dependent, but the aforementioned claims are clearly independent claims as indicated by their distinct preambles. Applicant's Deposit Account #: 09-0468 will be charged $1,000 for an additional five independent claims (there are five independent claims in excess of three) as per 37 CFR 1. 16(h) as authorized in the 10/25/2001 transmitted letter.

It is respectfully stated that claim 10 is amended to be an independent claim.

Claim 11 is corrected and amended to depend upon claim 10.

Claim 16, 17, 18 and 19 are amended to be an independent claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of35 US.c. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subjectmatter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 2,5-7 and 11 are rejected under 35 US.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claim 2 recites the limitation "said I/O devices" in second line. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Under the broadest reasonable

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interpretation of the claims, Examiner interprets I/O devices to be any I/O device that can be attached to the system.

It is respectfully stated that claim 2 is amended to remove the word said, and overcoming the 112 rejection.

5. Claims 5-7 are rejected based on a rejected base claim.

It is respectfully stated that overcoming the 112 rejection for claim 2, overcomesthe 112 rejection for claims 5-7.

6. Claim 11 recites the limitation "a method according to claim 8" in line one. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 8 recites a data processing system. Examiner interprets claim 11 as an independent claim that should read along the lines of "A method for accessing readers by means of a system according to claim 8..." data processing system

It is respectfully stated that claim 11 is amended to depend on method claim 10. This overcomes the 112 rejection.

7. Claim 11 recites the limitation "said routine" in line one. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim

It is respectfully stated that claim 11 is amended to depend on method claim 10. This overcomes the 112 rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 use § 103

8. The following is a quotation of35 US.c. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-9 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat. No,. 5,928,347 to Jones.

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10. As per claims 1, 9 and 17, Jones discloses data processing system, client-server system and computer program product comprising: an I/O port for establishing connection between said system (Fig. 3, element 10 is the system) and readers (Fig. 3, all the interfaces to devices in Fig. 3 are intrinsically ports to connect to devices); a program having the functionality to communicate with said readers via said I/O port (Column 5. lines 50-65, multimedia features and LCD/control panel require software for operation; Column 8, lines 15-21); an operating system , providing access to said program to said readers characterized by the further components (Column 8, lines 28-30 indicate operating system/BIOS which intrinsically allow hardware to interoperate). Jones discloses the ability to interface the readers with a program that specifies functionality, e.g., the multimedia access functions such as viewing images and playing/stopping music, etc. Note the client and server functionalities are can be separated out based on the who initiated the communications and who is the target of the communications. The computer program product has computer code and computer usable medium as shown in Fig. 2, element 30 (as per claim 17).

Jones does not disclose expressly a reader access layer component for determining the reader to be accessed according to the access conditions specified by said configuration tool. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to see that Jones indeed has a reader access layer that operates by determining the specific reader corresponding to the functionality the user wishes to use. For instance, the user pushes play, it is clear that the causal event will trigger the operating system and associated multimedia program to signal to the system to read :1Tom the specific reader that contains the memory card which holds the music data, e.g., reader 54. The reader access layer here can be the interface to the memory card, e.g., Fig. 3, element 54, or the IDE interface, e.g., Fig. 3, element 70. The motivation for this is clearly seen in Fig. 3, where multiple readers have access to a single bus and therefore requiring determination of who is currently the master of the bus. Therefore, it would have been obvious that Jones has a configuration tool and read access layer that allows the determination of which device is to be accessed since there are multiple devices that share a common bus.

11. As per claims 2 and 4-8, Jones discloses claim 1, wherein an I/O device that is attached is a communication link (Fig. 2, element 124 or 134) and the configuration tool (Fig. 2, element 30, the bus controller) has access to

reader access list (all the devices connected to the shared bus) and knows who has priority (e.g., who is given mastership of the bus).

12. As per claim 3, Jones discloses claim 1, wherein said configuration tool may be an integral part of said program (the operation of the multimedia functions are intrinsically relies on the interoperation of the bus controllers, the operating system and the specific multimedia program).

Allowable Subject Matter

13. Claims 10, 12-16, I.8 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

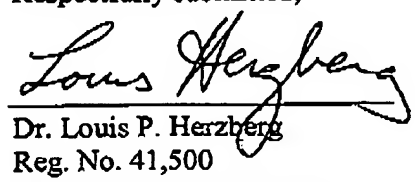
Applicant expresses appreciation of the allowance of claims 7, and 18, and objected-to claims 8 and [as amended] 19.

Although applicant does not agree that the invention in claims 1-9 and 17 is obvious from the cited art, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, these claims are canceled.

It is anticipated that this amendment brings the application to allowance of claims 10-16, 18 and 19. Favorable action is respectfully solicited. In the unlikely event that any claim remains rejected, please contact the undersigned by phone in order to discuss the application.

Please charge any fee necessary to enter this paper to deposit account 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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